

SPAWN



CAULLA

McFARLANE

DAN.

114



DIGITAL
EDITION

SPAWN.COM

TODD McFARLANE AND
IMAGE COMICS PRESENT

THE BRIDGE PART I

DEDICATED TO
MICHAEL A. KAHN

PLOT
BRIAN HOLGUIN
TODD McFARLANE

STORY
BRIAN HOLGUIN

PENCILS
ANGEL MEDINA

INKS
DANNY MIKI
VICTOR OLAZABA
ALLEN MARTINEZ
CRIME LAB STUDIOS

LETTERING
TOM ORZECOWSKI

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SPAWN 113 SUMMARY

After apparently losing his son, Twitch Williams is on the verge of suicide, but Spawn will intervene before Twitch pulls the trigger. Out in Central Park, the Children of the Kingdom are gathering but have not taken into account Spawn's allies. Nor have they considered the versatile Ab and Zab who, with the help of a magic marker, turn the Citadel into a pillar of death and a gateway to Hell for all the vampires. In the end, Max is saved, but is no longer a part of this world. And though it appears that Spawn has vanquished the Kingdom's cult, he fails to realize, as a familiar face reminds us, that a gateway to Hell can also let things out.



TODD McFARLANE
PRODUCTIONS



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THE CORAL
PACIFIC
HOTEL.
AWAJI,
JAPAN.

Uk, HI...
KONNICHWA.

KONBANWA.
IRASSHAI
MASE?

Uk...
WATASHI
WA-JOUZU-NI
NIHONGO... GA
HANASE MASEN.
EIGO WO... uh...
HANASHI-
MASU-KA?

YES.
I SPEAK
ENGLISH.
HOW MAY I
HELP YOU,
SIR?

I HAVE A
RESERVATION.

YOUR
NAME,
PLEASE?

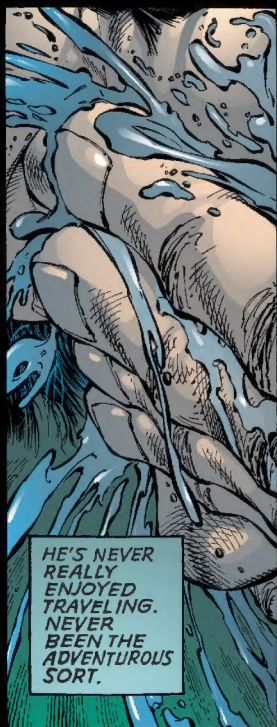
NAKADAI.
BEN
NAKADAI.

ENJOY
YOUR
VISIT.

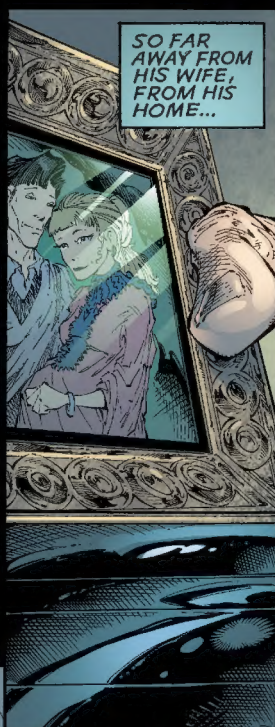
THANK
YOU.

BEN
NAKADAI
IS A
STRANGER
IN THE
LAND
OF HIS
ANCESTORS.

TAMAGO
卵



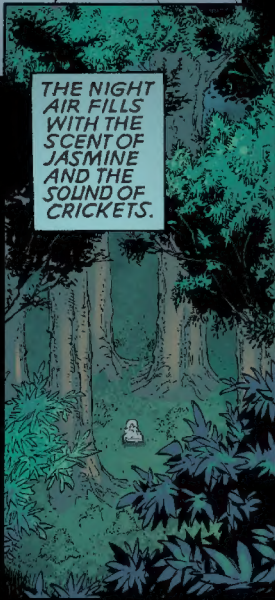
HE'S NEVER REALLY ENJOYED TRAVELING. NEVER BEEN THE ADVENTUROUS SORT.




SO FAR AWAY FROM HIS WIFE, FROM HIS HOME...



STILL, IT'S ONLY FOR A FEW DAYS. MIGHT AS WELL MAKE THE BEST OF IT. HE'LL BE HOME SOON ENOUGH.

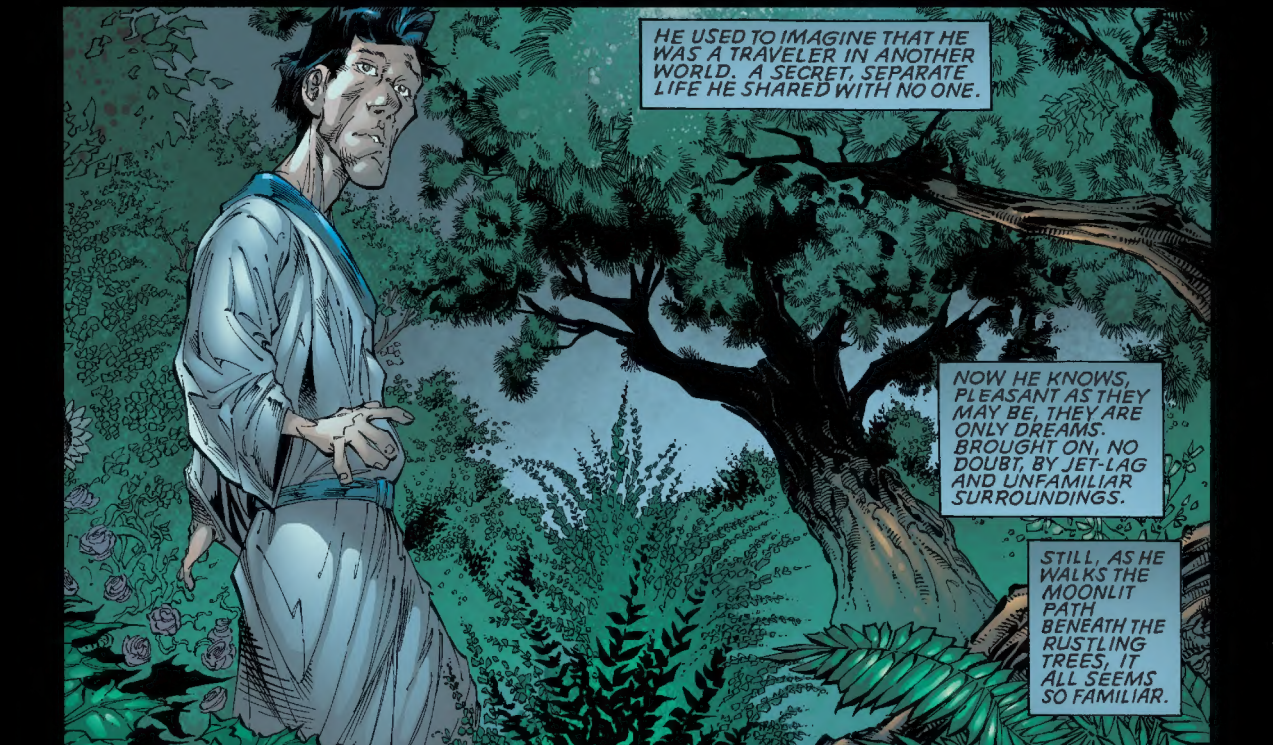


THE NIGHT AIR FILLS WITH THE SCENT OF JASMINE AND THE SOUND OF CRICKETS.



BEN REMEMBERS
HAVING DREAMS
LIKE THIS WHEN
HE WAS A CHILD.


DREAMS SO
FULL OF COLOR
AND DEPTH, SO
VIBRANT, THEY
FELT MORE
REAL THAN HIS
WAKING LIFE.



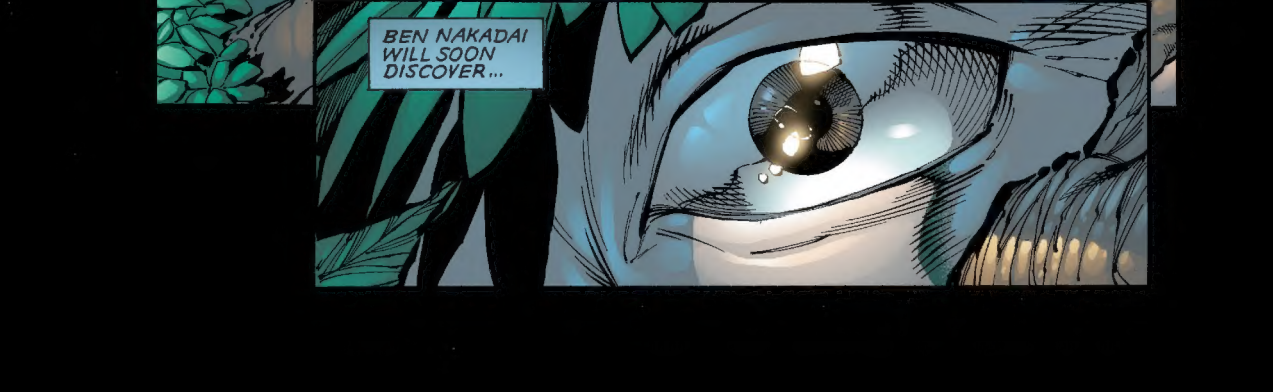
HE USED TO IMAGINE THAT HE
WAS A TRAVELER IN ANOTHER
WORLD. A SECRET, SEPARATE
LIFE HE SHARED WITH NO ONE.

NOW HE KNOWS,
PLEASANT AS THEY
MAY BE, THEY ARE
ONLY DREAMS.
BROUGHT ON, NO
DOUBT, BY JET-LAG
AND UNFAMILIAR
SURROUNDINGS.

STILL, AS HE
WALKS THE
MOONLIT
PATH
BENEATH THE
RUSTLING
TREES, IT
ALL SEEMS
SO FAMILIAR.



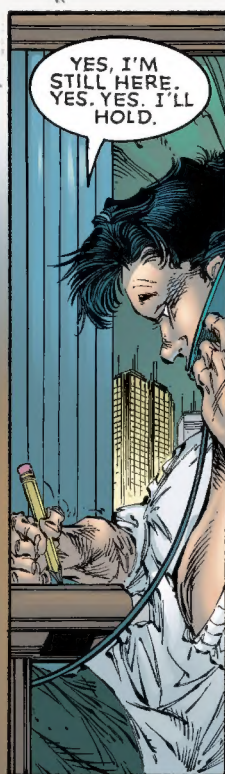
LIKE COMING HOME.



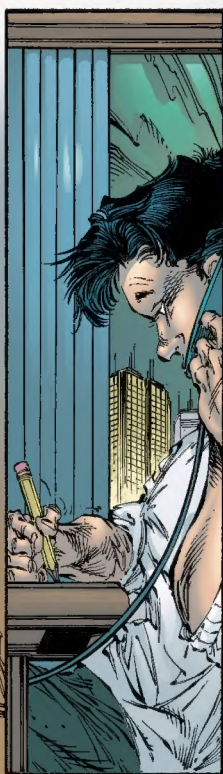
BEN NAKADAI
WILL SOON
DISCOVER...

... THERE IS A VAST
CHASM BETWEEN
WHAT IS TRUE AND
WHAT IS BELIEVED
TO BE TRUE.

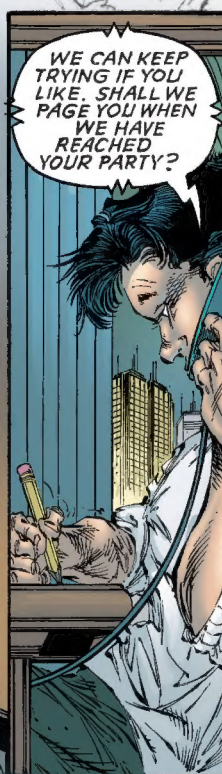




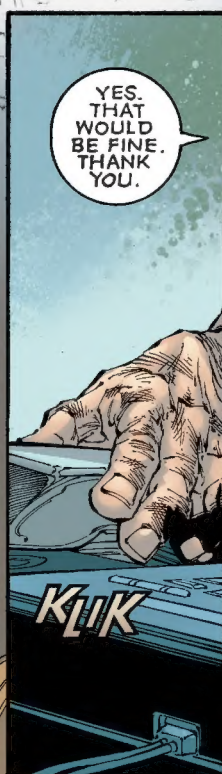
YES, I'M STILL HERE. YES, YES, I'LL HOLD.



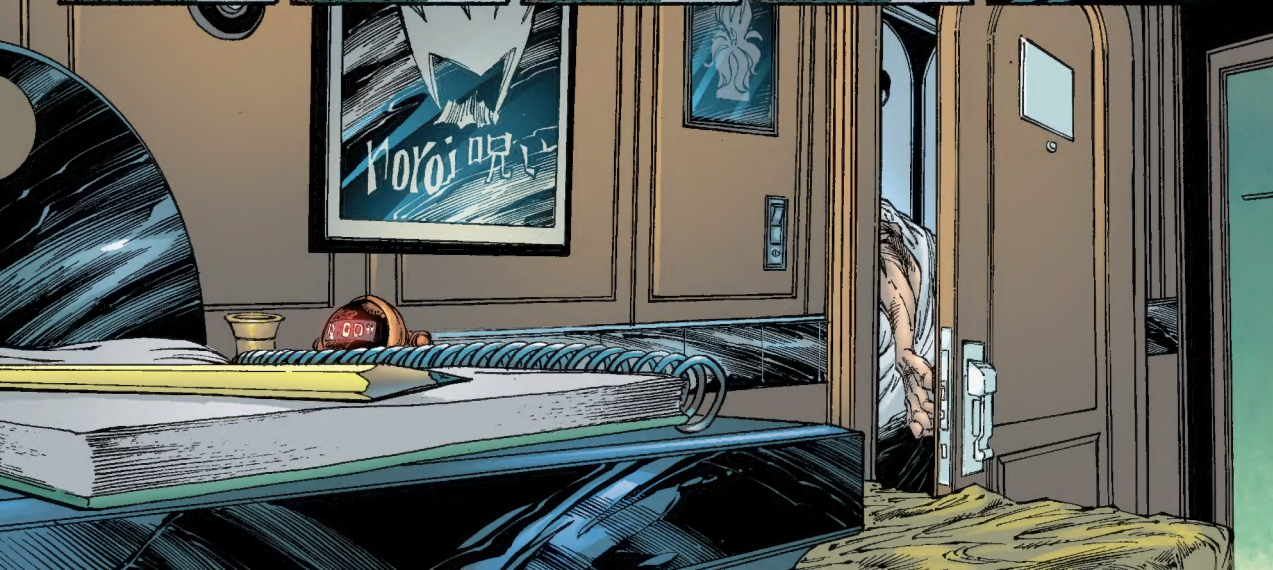
I'M SORRY. WE ARE UNABLE TO CONNECT WITH THAT NUMBER...



WE CAN KEEP TRYING IF YOU LIKE. SHALL WE PAGE YOU WHEN WE HAVE REACHED YOUR PARTY?



YES. THAT WOULD BE FINE. THANK YOU.



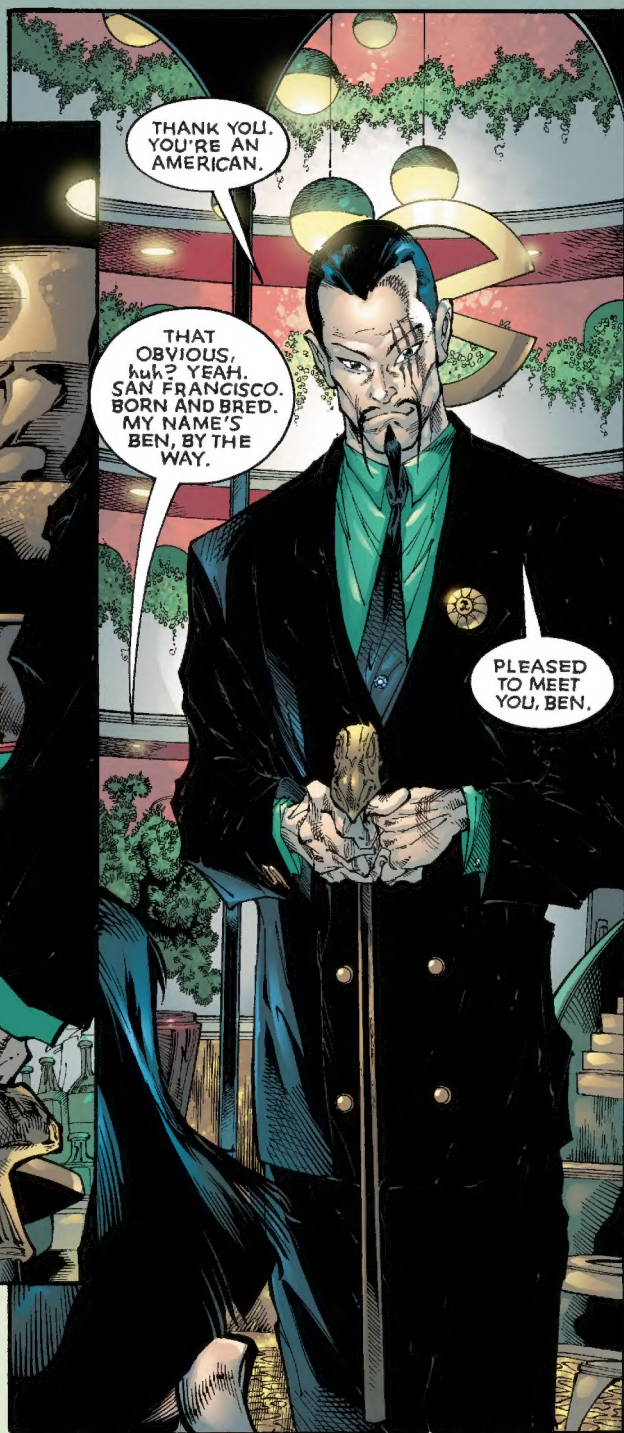


ANYTHING ELSE?

NO. THANK YOU.

IT SEEMS WE HAVE THE BAR ALL TO OURSELVES, YOUNG MAN. MIND IF I JOIN YOU?

WHAT? NO, PLEASE, GO AHEAD.



THANK YOU. YOU'RE AN AMERICAN.

THAT OBVIOUS, huh? YEAH. SAN FRANCISCO. BORN AND BRED. MY NAME'S BEN, BY THE WAY.

PLEASSED TO MEET YOU, BEN.

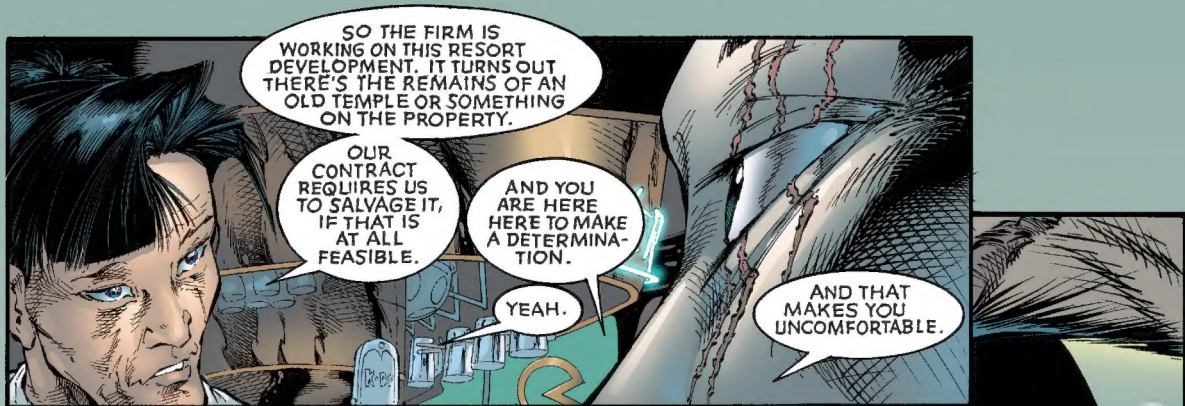
SO, WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

ME? FROM EVERYWHERE, REALLY. A HOME IN EVERY PORT.

MUST BE NICE.

IT HAS ITS ADVANTAGES.





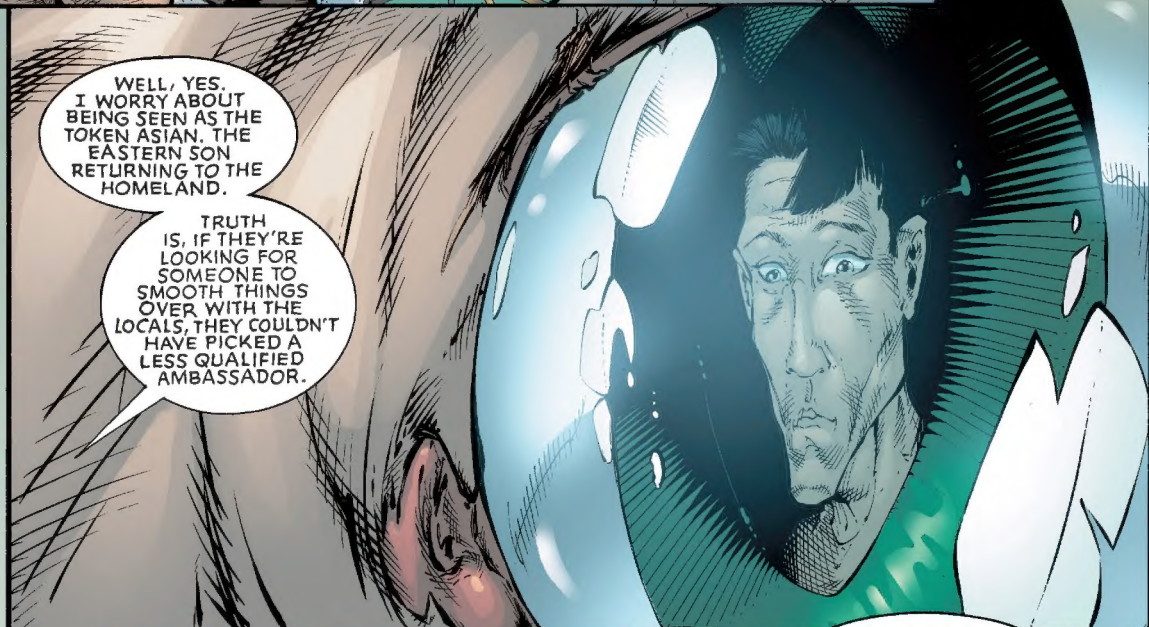
SO THE FIRM IS WORKING ON THIS RESORT DEVELOPMENT. IT TURNS OUT THERE'S THE REMAINS OF AN OLD TEMPLE OR SOMETHING ON THE PROPERTY.

OUR CONTRACT REQUIRES US TO SALVAGE IT, IF THAT IS AT ALL FEASIBLE.

AND YOU ARE HERE TO MAKE A DETERMINATION.

YEAH.

AND THAT MAKES YOU UNCOMFORTABLE.



WELL, YES. I WORRY ABOUT BEING SEEN AS THE TOKEN ASIAN. THE EASTERN SON RETURNING TO THE HOMELAND.

TRUTH IS, IF THEY'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO SMOOTH THINGS OVER WITH THE LOCALS, THEY COULDN'T HAVE PICKED A LESS QUALIFIED AMBASSADOR.



YOU'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE.

NO. NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT IT. MY GRANDPARENTS WERE BIG ON ASSIMILATION. NEVER SPOKE JAPANESE, EVEN AT HOME.

MY FOLKS WERE THE SAME WAY. DIDN'T EVEN LIKE ME TO WATCH GODZILLA MOVIES.

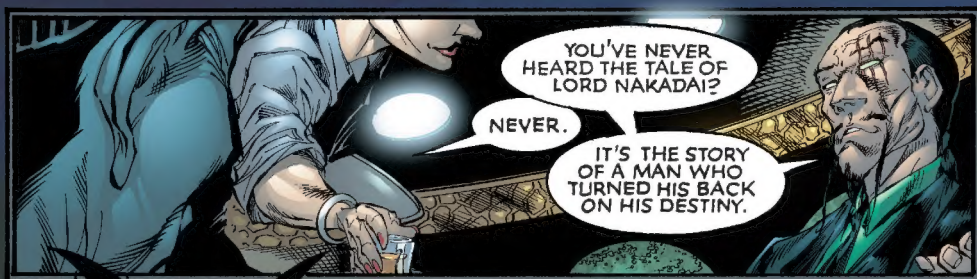


MAY I ASK YOUR LAST NAME, BEN?

NAKADAI.

NAKADAI. THAT'S QUITE A STORIED NAME, ESPECIALLY IN THIS PART OF JAPAN. MAKES YOU A BIT OF A CELEBRITY. YOU HAVE SOME RATHER FAMOUS ANCESTORS.

REALLY?



YOU'VE NEVER
HEARD THE TALE OF
LORD NAKADAI?

NEVER.

IT'S THE STORY
OF A MAN WHO
TURNED HIS BACK
ON HIS DESTINY.

MANY, MANY YEARS AGO, BACK IN
THE DAYS OF THE SAMURAI, THERE
WAS A GREAT SOLDIER NAMED
ISANAGI NAKADAI.

IN THIS TIME, GREAT WARS
WERE BEING FOUGHT.
NAKADAI WON A KEY
VICTORY IN THE NAME OF
THE EMPEROR, WHOM
HE SERVED.

THE EMPEROR
SOUGHT TO
REWARD HIM
FOR HIS
SERVICE. HE
MADE NAKADAI
A FEUDAL LORD,
THE RULER
OF HIS OWN
FIEFDOM.

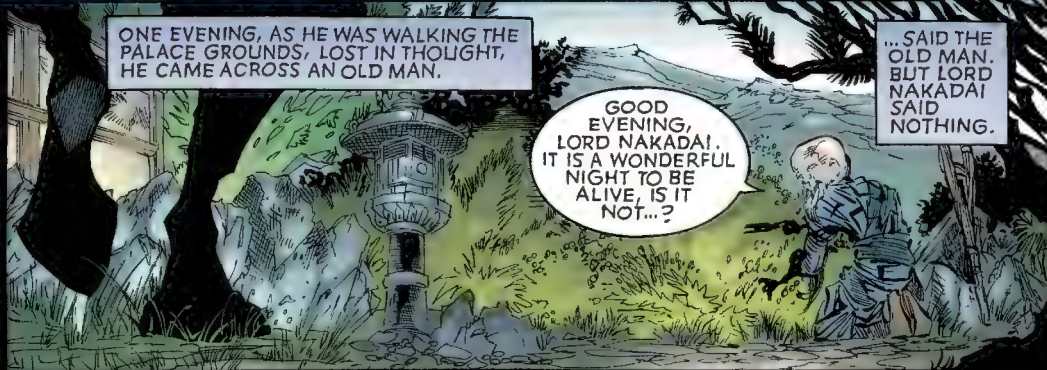
NAKADAI
RETURNED
TO HIS HOME
PROVINCE
VICTORIOUS.
BUT HIS JOY
SOON TURNED
SOOR.

FOR IT WAS THEN THAT NAKADAI
LEARNED HIS WIFE AND CHILD
HAD BEEN TAKEN BY FEVER
THE PREVIOUS SPRING.

HE WAS
INCONSOLABLE.



FOR A YEAR, HE INDULGED HIMSELF IN HIS GRIEF, EATING LITTLE, SPEAKING LESS. HE NEGLECTED HIS DUTIES.



ONE EVENING, AS HE WAS WALKING THE PALACE GROUNDS, LOST IN THOUGHT, HE CAME ACROSS AN OLD MAN.

GOOD EVENING, LORD NAKADAI. IT IS A WONDERFUL NIGHT TO BE ALIVE, IS IT NOT...?

... SAID THE OLD MAN. BUT LORD NAKADAI SAID NOTHING.

YOU NEGLECT YOUR GARDEN, MY LORD. BE CAREFUL HOW IT GROWS.

LORD NAKADAI WAS UNUSED TO BEING SPOKEN TO LIKE THIS. BUT THE OLD MAN HAD HIMSELF BEEN A GREAT WARRIOR, MANY YEARS AGO.

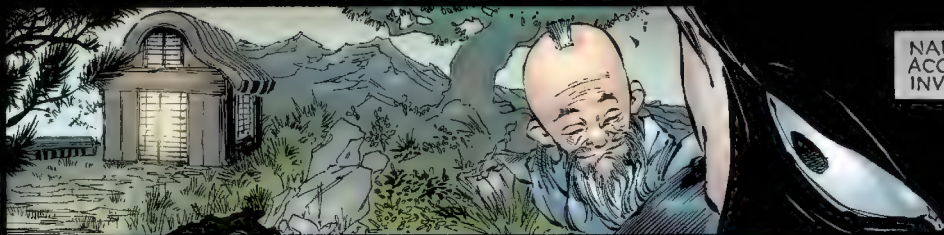
IN HIS OLD AGE, HE WAS CONTENT MERELY TO CARE FOR THE PALACE GROUNDS. NAKADAI RESPECTED HIM.

I'M SORRY. AM I BORING YOU, BEN?

NO. THIS IS FASCINATING. GO ON

WELL, THE OLD MAN INVITED THE LORD INTO HIS HUT FOR TEA.

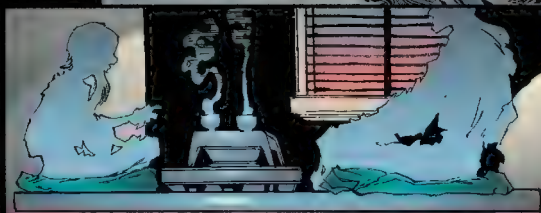




NAKADAI
ACCEPTED THE
INVITATION.

LIFE HAD LOST ITS
FLAVOR, NAKADAI
CONFERSED TO HIS
HOST. THE WORLD
WAS EMPTY WITH-
OUT HIS FAMILY.

THE OLD MAN
OFFERED HIM
SOME ADVICE.



"YOU ARE RUNNING FROM
DEMONS," HE SAID. "THEY
WILL SHADOW YOUR PATH
FOR ALL YOUR DAYS IF YOU
DO NOT TURN AROUND
AND FACE THEM.

"EACH OF US HAS A DRAGON. WE
MUST SLAY IT OR MAKE PEACE WITH
IT. BUT IF YOU REFUSE TO FACE IT, IT
WILL DEVOUR YOU IN THE END."

NAKADAI NODDED, UNDERSTANDING.

"WHEN YOU DO SLAY
YOUR DRAGON," THE
OLD MAN CONTINUED,
"BE SURE TO LOOK IT
IN THE EYE. IT WILL
SHOW YOU WHAT
YOU MOST FEAR."

"BUT IT WILL ALSO
SHOW YOU WHAT
YOU MOST NEED
TO KNOW."

LORD NAKADAI
LEFT HOME
THAT NIGHT,
WITHOUT A
WORD TO
ANYONE.
ABANDONING
HIS THRONE
WITHOUT
NAMING AN
HEIR.



HE BECAME A **RONIN**, A
WANDERING, LORDLESS
SAMURAI. HE FOUGHT
MANY BATTLES AND DID
MANY GREAT DEEDS.

IT IS SAID
HE FREED THE
COUNTRYSIDE
FROM THE
GRIP OF A
PARTICULARLY
WICKED
BANDIT CLAN.

HE FOUGHT
TRICKSTERS
AND WIZARDS.

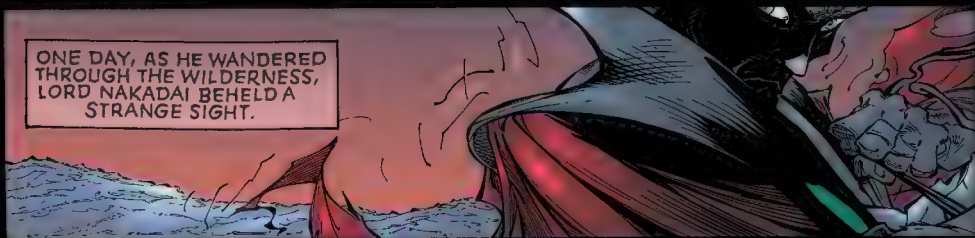
HE CAST
**FIVE DEMON
BROTHERS**
FROM THE
HOLY TEMPLE.

TALES OF
HIS BRAVERY
SPREAD FAR
AND WIDE,
AND HE
BECAME
SOMETHING
OF A LEGEND.

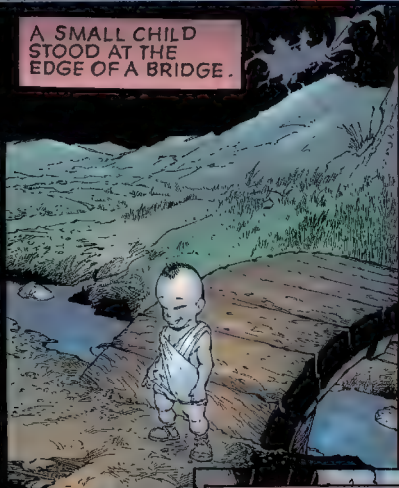
BUT FOR ALL HIS
TRAVELS, HE STILL HAD
NOT SEEN HIS **DRAGON**.



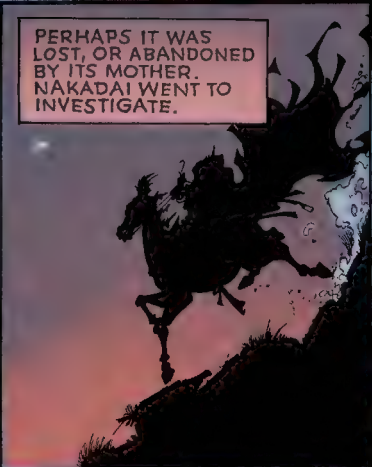
ONE DAY, AS HE WANDERED
THROUGH THE WILDERNESS,
LORD NAKADAI BEHELD A
STRANGE SIGHT.



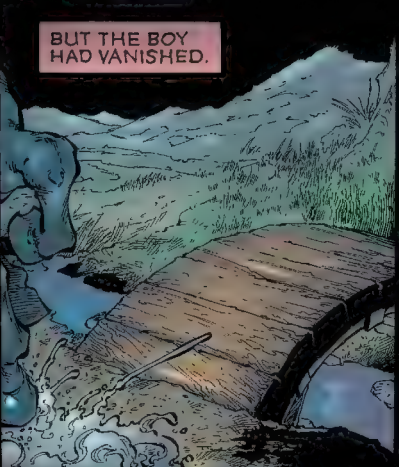
A SMALL CHILD
STOOD AT THE
EDGE OF A BRIDGE.



PERHAPS IT WAS
LOST, OR ABANDONED
BY ITS MOTHER.
NAKADAI WENT TO
INVESTIGATE.



BUT THE BOY
HAD VANISHED.



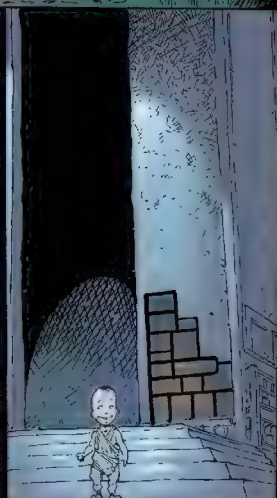
FROM ACROSS THE STREAM, NAKADAI
COULD HEAR THE GENTLE LAUGHTER
OF A CHILD, FLOATING LIKE SOAP
BUBBLES IN THE AIR.



HE CROSSED THE
BRIDGE AND RODE
INTO THE WOOD.



HE FOLLOWED
THE SOUND.
IT LED HIM TO
AN ANCIENT
TEMPLE,
PERCHED ON
THE EDGE OF
A CLIFF.



NAKADAI
DISMOUNTED
HIS HORSE AND
WENT INSIDE.



AND THERE
HE SAW IT.



HE HAD COME
FACE TO FACE
WITH HIS DRAGON.


HA HA HA HA!!

THE TEMPLE SHOOK
WITH THE DEEP,
RESONANT LAUGHTER
OF THE BEAST.

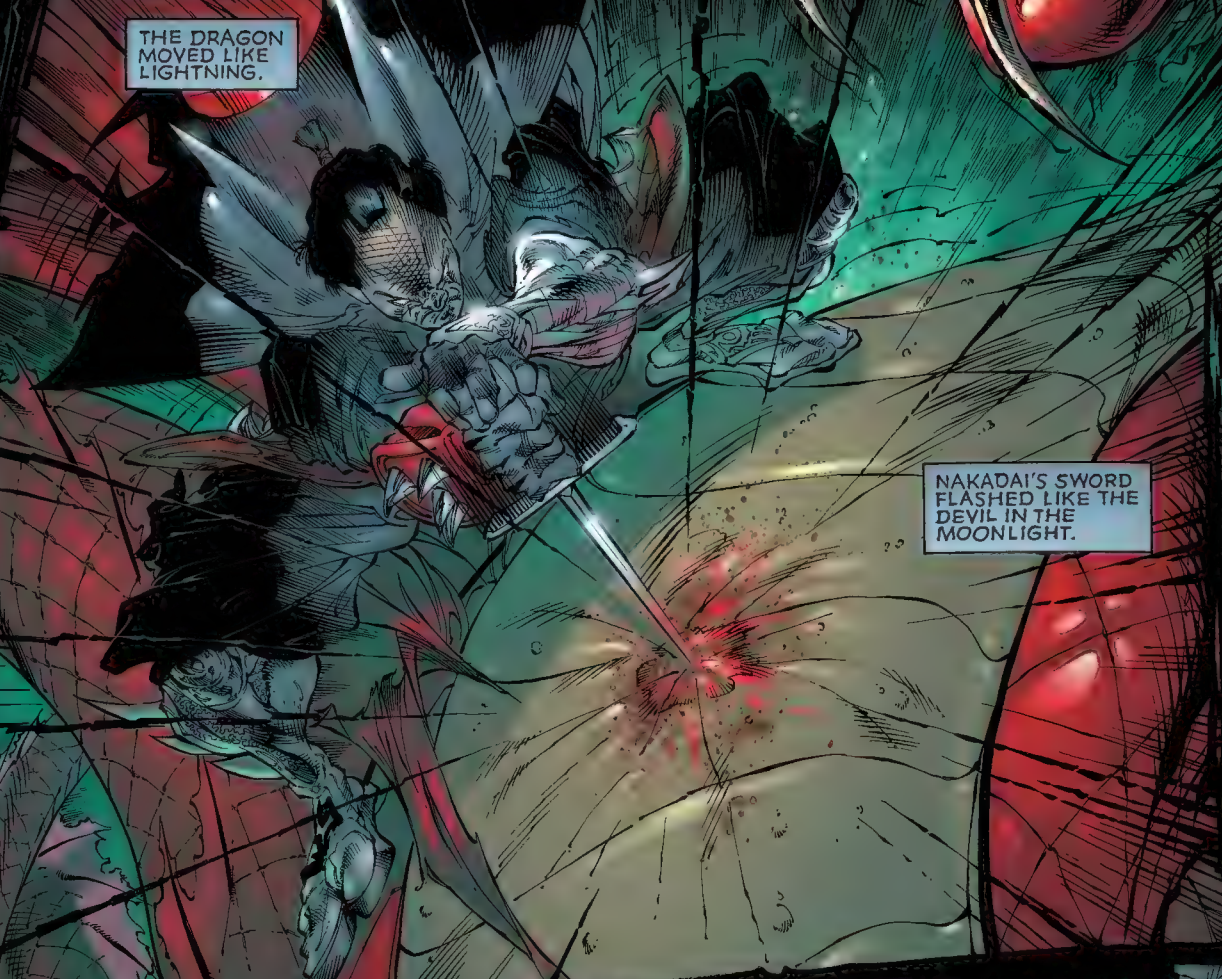
NAKADAI FROZE
FOR A MOMENT,
UNABLE TO MOVE.

BUT HIS COURAGE
SOON FOUND HIM.







THEY
WERE
JOINED
TOGETHER
IN FIERCE
BATTLE.



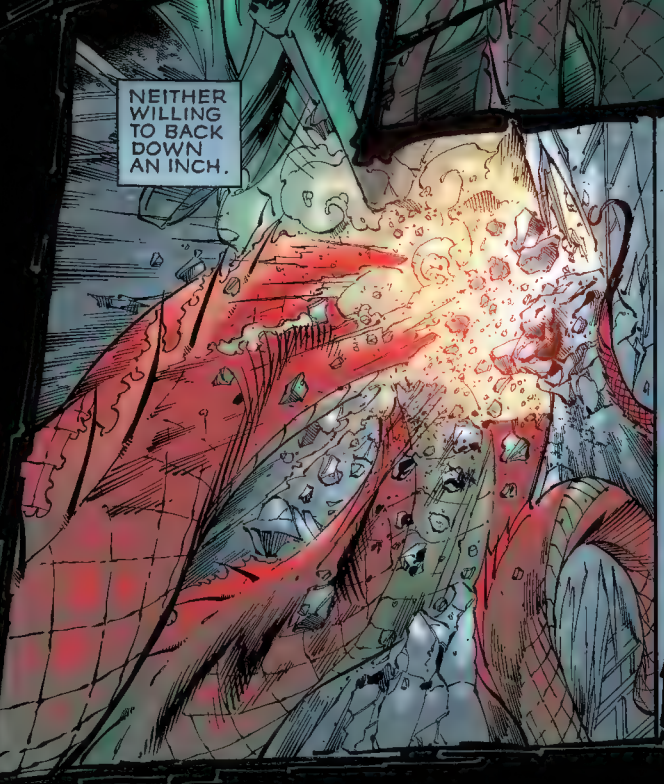
THE DRAGON
MOVED LIKE
LIGHTNING.



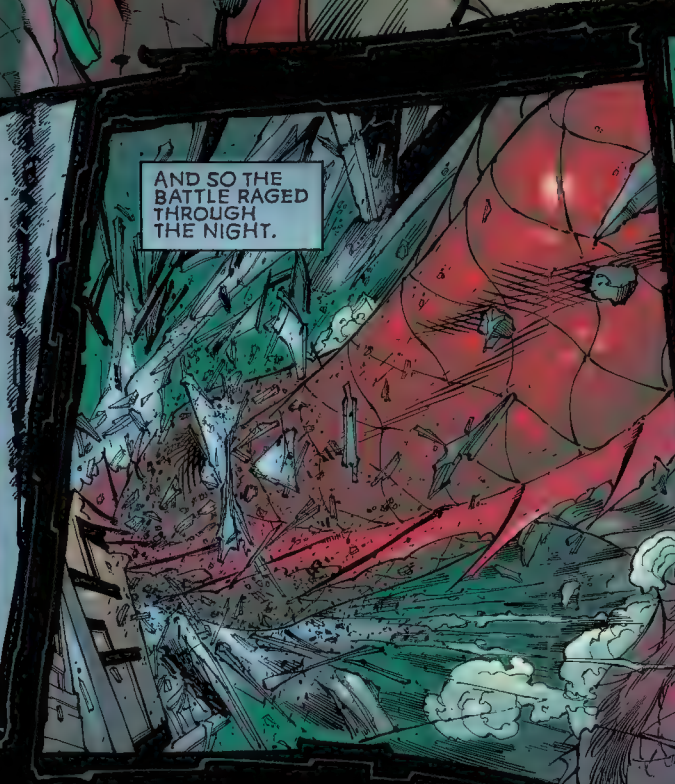
NAKADAI'S SWORD
FLASHED LIKE THE
DEVIL IN THE
MOONLIGHT.




EACH, IT
SEEMED,
WAS A
MATCH
FOR THE
OTHER.



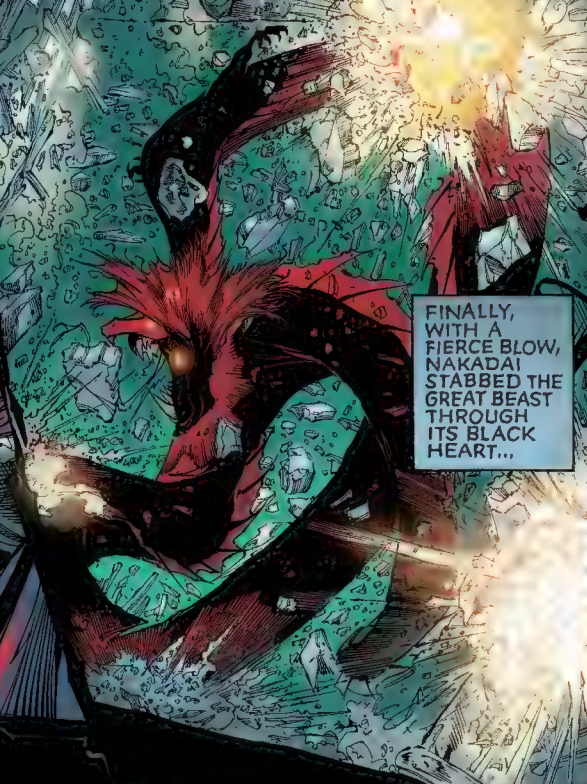
NEITHER
WILLING
TO BACK
DOWN
AN INCH.




AND SO THE
BATTLE RAGED
THROUGH
THE NIGHT.



UNTIL AT LAST,
THEIR WARRING
BEGAN TO
SHAKE THE
VERY TEMPLE
APART.



FINALLY,
WITH A
FIERCE BLOW,
NAKADAI
STABBED THE
GREAT BEAST
THROUGH
ITS BLACK
HEART...



...JUST
AS THE
BUILDING
WENT
TUMBLING
OFF THE
EDGE OF
A CLIFF.

AS THEY
FELL INTO
THE NIGHT,
NAKADAI
COULD
HEAR HIS
DRAGON,
STILL
LAUGHING
AT HIM.

HA
HA
HA
HA

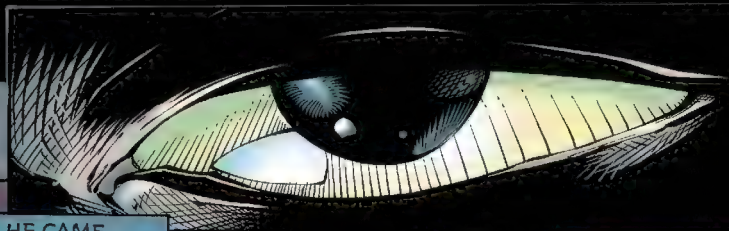
HA
HA
HA
HA

HA
HA
HA
HA

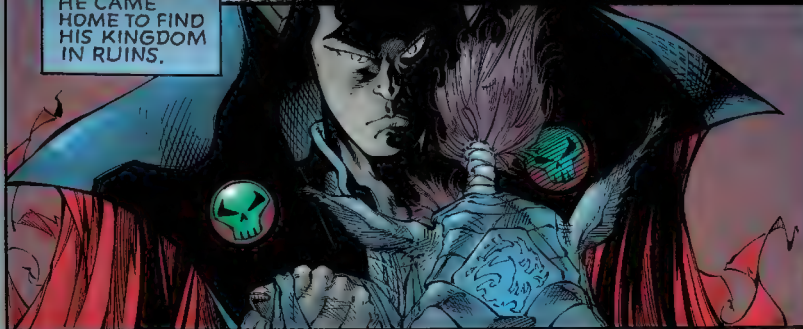
LORD
NAKADAI
HAD
FAILED
TO DO
AS THE
OLD MAN
BADE
HIM.

HE FORGOT
TO LOOK THE
DRAGON IN
THE EYE.

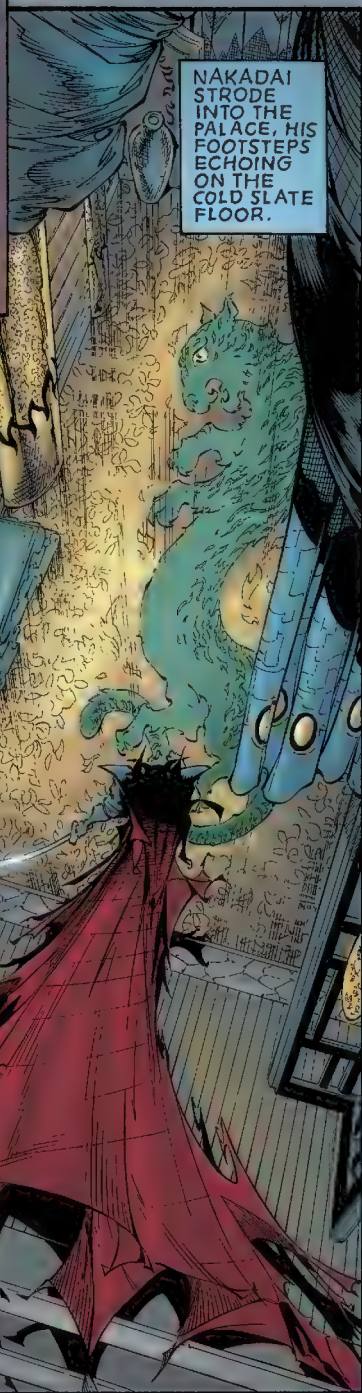
IT WAS MANY
YEARS LATER THAT
LORD NAKADAI
RETURNED FROM
THE WILDERNESS.



HE CAME
HOME TO FIND
HIS KINGDOM
IN RUINS.



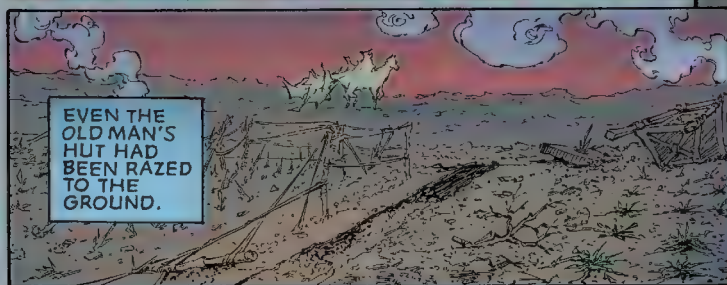
NAKADAI
STRODE
INTO THE
PALACE, HIS
FOOTSTEPS
ECHOING
ON THE
COLD SLATE
FLOOR.



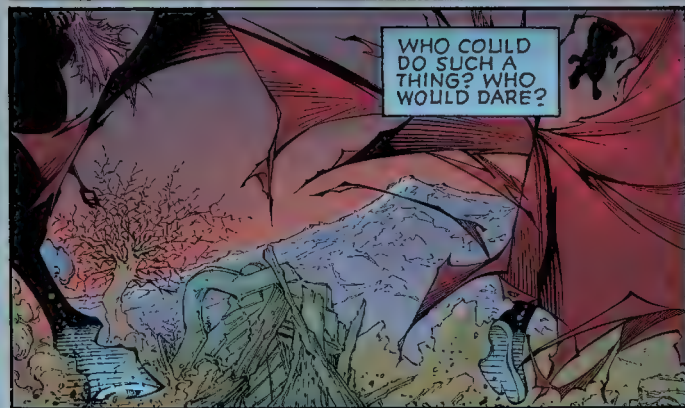
THE TOWNS WERE
BURNED, THE FIELDS
LAID TO WASTE.



EVEN THE
OLD MAN'S
HUT HAD
BEEN RAZED
TO THE
GROUND.



WHO COULD
DO SUCH A
THING? WHO
WOULD DARE?





AS HE ENTERED THE GREAT HALL, HIS BLOOD QUICKENED IN HIS VEINS. SOMEONE WAS SEATED UPON NAKADAI'S THRONE, WAITING.

NAKADAI DREW HIS *KATANA* AND WENT TO MEET THIS BRAZEN PRETENDER.

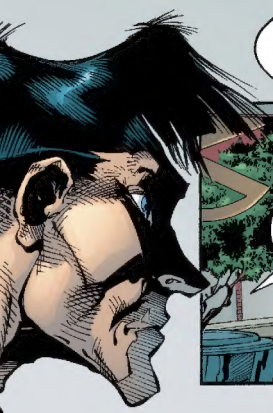
WHOEVER IT WAS WOULD PAY DEARLY FOR HIS TRESPASS.



THEN NAKADAI FROZE. HE DROPPED HIS SWORD, HANDS TREMBLING.



RAGE TURNED INTO DISBELIEF WHEN LORD NAKADAI SAW WHO IT WAS THAT SAT UPON HIS THRONE.



EXCUSE ME, SIR. THE CONCIERGE WANTED ME TO TELL YOU SHE HAS REACHED YOUR PARTY ON THE TELEPHONE.

YOU MAY TAKE THE CALL IN YOUR ROOM, IF YOU LIKE.

OH, THAT'S GREAT. THANK YOU.



PLEASE EXCUSE ME, MISTER... uh...

YOU CAN CALL ME *MYKOTO*.

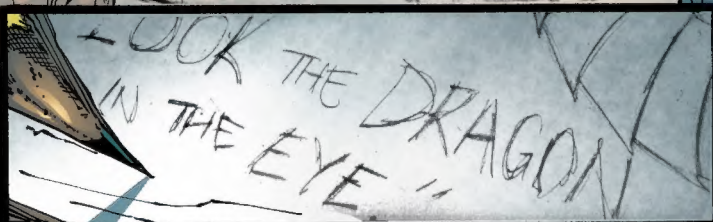
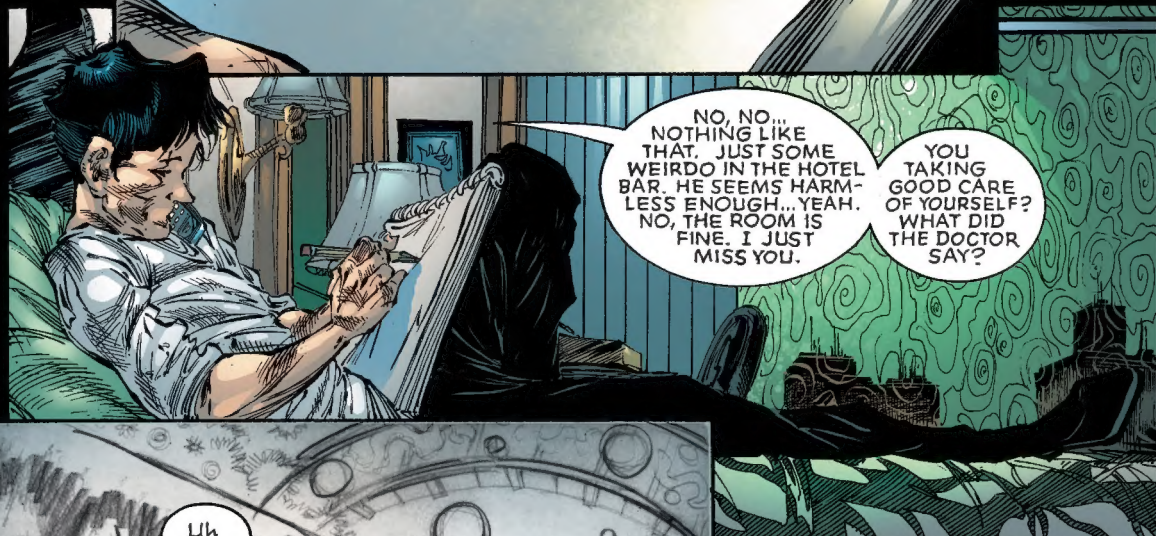
DON'T YOU WANT TO HEAR HOW THE STORY ENDS? AREN'T YOU CURIOUS TO KNOW WHO HAD USURPED THE THRONE?



ANOTHER TIME, PERHAPS. I REALLY MUST GO. THANK YOU FOR THE DRINK.



DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AS YOUR ANCESTOR, BEN. BEWARE OF THE UNANSWERED QUESTION.



"LOOKS LIKE
I'M IN FOR
A HELL OF
A STORM."





Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE